

Seven Store Fronts on W. Pratt St.  
635-647 West Pratt Street,  
Baltimore, Maryland.

HABS No. Md. 16

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Reduced Copies of Measured Drawings  
PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA  
District of Maryland

Historic American Buildings Survey  
John H. Scarff, District Officer  
1012 Keyser Building, Baltimore, Md.

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SEVEN STORE FRONTS  
635-647 West Pratt Street,  
Baltimore, Maryland.

<u>OWNERS</u>	Various- usually living on premises.
<u>DATE OF ERECTION</u>	1830-1840
<u>ARCHITECTS</u>	Unknown
<u>BUILDER</u>	Unknown
<u>PRESENT CONDITION</u>	Good- 635 is used as a storage warehouse and all interior partitions have been removed. All other buildings are used as store on first floor front and residence first floor rear and second and third floors as seemingly they were originally intended to be used.
<u>NUMBER OF STORIES</u>	Basement and three stories, attic air space above.
<u>MATERIAL OF CONSTRUCTION</u>	Brick, foundation and exterior walls. Interior and roof construction of wood. At the present time there is a tin roof but from the attic space the old sheathing strip and a wood shingle roof can be seen. The Pratt street brick facades are at present painted red with white penciled joints. At each of the windows and doors are threaded bolts with heads on inside. These can be seen in the photograph. The writer thought they were for holding shutters in place in front of the fixed, glazed sash, but one of the occupants said they were for woven wire guards.
<u>OTHER EXISTING RECORDS</u>	Unknown

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ADDITIONAL DATA

The original business center of Baltimore was further east around the harbour where the first buildings were built in the 17th Century. Early in the 19th Century the city had expanded west to about Paca street, or the five hundred block. In 1828 the corner stone of the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad was laid, and a few years later trains were bringing passengers and freight to its first terminal Mount Clare Station on Pratt street at the nine hundred block. Around this new commercial center, business buildings and warehouses were built in the 1830's. The immense modern terminal warehouses ~~that~~ were to be built later with the development of the railroads and the opening up of the west, close to the waterfront properties several miles to the east, consequently, the neighborhood of West Pratt Street from the six hundred to the nine hundred blocks has changed little in the last Century.

These seven stores and small residences are in this back water of neglected and unpretentious buildings, in most cases the shop-keeper lives on the premises and the side door to Pratt street gives access to the living quarters. In some, the shop is rented and the living quarters are independently occupied. Immediately opposite are other warehouses.

*John B. Scarff*